(b) and (c) At present, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plan to provide aerobridge at Patna Airport.

Posting of IAF Officials at ATC in Metro Airports

2630. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to post Indian Air Force (IAF) officers at Civil Air Traffic controls in the four metro airports to monitor aircraft movement;

(b) the purpose of this decision taken by Government; and

(c) in what manner this would help IAF to react quickly in case of deviation of flight from its normal route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Government have decided to post Indian Air Force officers at Civil Air Traffic Control Centre at Delhi airport only to monitor air traffic movement to protect strategic installations/buildings in Delhi.

(c) Information is being collected from Indian Air Force.

Operation of International Flights from Amritsar

2631. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to operate direct flights from Amritsar to destinations in Europe, Canada and United Kingdom for the benefit of the people of Punjab who have settled and are working there and also for tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The designated carriers of India *i.e.* Air India/Indian Airlines have no plans, at present, to operate direct flights from Amritsar to destinations in Europe, Canada and United Kingdom. So far as the operation of foreign

airlines from Europe, Canada and United Kingdom to Amritsar is concerned, none of them have approached for the access of Amritsar for their designated carriers. However, foreign airlines can operate tourists charter flights to/from Amritsar as per the existing tourist charter guidelines.

Hike in fares of IA

2632. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to effect a 10 per cent hike in Indian Airlines fares; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has, w.e.f. 26th March, 2003, increased the Rupee fares on domestic sectors by 15 per cent. Some re-structuring of the fares has also been carried out in order to minimize the inter-regional variations.

The increase in domestic Rupee fares was necessitated due to increase in cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and other input costs.

Emergency plan of airlines services during Iraq war

†2633. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines companies have formulated any emergency plan in view of the possibility of Iraq war; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A contigency plan has been drawn up by Air India and Indian Airlines to evacuate Indian nationals if the situation so warrants. As per the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.